

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EUR-25 CU-05 /125 W
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R 211245Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8520

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

USDAO/PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 1952

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (DATE OF REFERENCE NUMBER SHOULD READ
20 VICE 24)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, UV

SUBJECT: ARMY DISCONTSNT IN UPPER VOLTA

REF: USAO ABIDJAN 0428 SEPT 20

1. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN DISSATISFACTION AMONG JUNIOR OFFICERS IN RECENT MONTHS, PARTICULARLY SINCE JUNE WHEN RETIRMENET AGE WAS RAISED, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH DISCONTENT HAS REACHED POINT WHERE PRESIDENT LAMIZANA MIGHT FEEL THREATENED.

2. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT LAMIZANA KEEPS HIS FINGER CLOSE TO THE PULSE AND THAT HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. CONSIDERING THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS NOW SERVING IN CIVILIAN JOBS, YOUNGER OFFICERS LEFT IN BARRACKS COULD NOT NUMBER MORE THAN TWENTY OR AT MOST THIRTY DEPENDING ON WHAT IS MEANT BY "YOUNGER OFFICERS, AND IT IS FAIRLY EASY TO
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KEEP TRACK OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN

MIND ALSO THAT FIVE OF ARMY OFFICERS NOW SERVING IN CABINET ARE UNDER 40. WHILE SOME JUNIOR OFFICERS MAY WELL RESIGN WITHIN NEXT THREE MONTHS, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO ATTEMPT OVERTHROW OF LAMIZANA REGIME, AT LEAST NOT IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT DISCONTENT WITH LAMIZANA REGIME IS MORE PRONOUNCED AMONG FORMER POLITICIANS, STUDENTS, AND LABOR UNIONS THAT WITHIN ARMED FORCES. LAMIZANA APPEARS TO BE SENSITIVE TO THIS LATENT OPPOSITION. FOR EXAMPLE, ALL COPIES OF SEPTEMBER 20 EDITION OF "JEUNE AFRIQUE" WERE SEIZED BY ORDER OF GOUV TWO DAYS AGO ALLEDGEDLY BECAUSE OF ARTICLE ON UPPER VOLTA POLITICAL SITUATION ENTITLED "SOUS LA MENACE DES CIVILS."

4. SINCE WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET A COPY, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EMBASSY ABIDJAN COULD CABLE A SUMMARY OF THIS ARTICLE.

GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

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